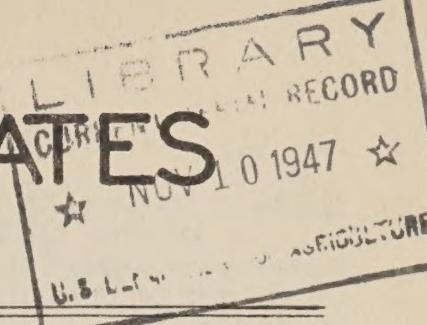


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# AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA



NUMBER I

RALEIGH, N.C.

MARCH 20, 1947

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
W. F. Callander, Assistant Chief

Cooperating  
with

N. C. Department of Agriculture  
Division of Agricultural Statistics  
W. Kerr Scott, Commissioner of Agriculture

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS AS OF MARCH 1, 1947

**GENERAL:** Acreage increases in Small Grains, Sweet Potatoes, and Tobacco.

If March 1 plans of North Carolina farmers materialize, the acreage of all crops grown in 1947 will be approximately three percent greater than for 1946 and will be near the level of the peak war years from 1942 to 1944. This increase, for the most part, is the result of substantial increases in the acreage of small grains for 1947 harvest, together with moderate increases planned for sweet potatoes and tobacco. All other crops either held the level established in 1946 or are showing reductions below a year ago. The most notable decline of crop acreages is that for early Irish Potatoes.

**WEATHER:** February Cold and Dry.

Weather conditions during February were in marked contrast to the unusually warm weather experienced in December and January. The unseasonably cold weather, accompanied by deficient supplies of moisture in the South eastern section of the State, stopped the growth of fall grain and other vegetation. However, except for a rather heavy reduction in the prospective production of commercial lettuce and some reduction in the strawberry crop, there is no indication that the cold snap will have any appreciable influence on prospective plantings and crop production for the coming season. Some early tobacco plants were killed, particularly in coastal counties and resowing has been necessary. The February cold snap was quite favorable for fruit, materially reducing the possible damage from late freezes.

**FARM LABOR:** Wages high; supply more favorable than a year ago.

Land preparation was slowed down considerably during February, but with a favorable March there should be no abnormal delay in Spring operations. Farm labor, while more plentiful than for several years, is still an acute problem, due to high wages and the reluctance of laborers to return to the farms.

### - TOBACCO -

**FLUE CURED:** Total Crop Acreage expected to be 1.5 percent larger.

The acreage of Flue-cured tobacco for harvest in

North Carolina in 1947 promises to be greater than last year if present intentions of farmers are carried out. Acreage allotments have been cut slightly below 1946, however, growers have expressed the intention to plant closer to their allotments than last year. Reports from a sample of over 2,500 tobacco producers indicate that around 809,000 acres or 1.5 percent more flue-cured tobacco will be set out this year than last year. During 1946 North Carolina Flue-cured producers harvested 797,000 acres of the weed with an average yield of 1117 lbs per acre.

The acreage intended to be set to flue-cured tobacco this year is 30 percent greater than the 10 year (1936-1945) average.

#### Border Belt - Acreage up 2 percent.

Prospective acreage in the Border belt (type 13) is estimated at 99,000 acres this year or 2 percent more than the 97,000 acres harvested in 1946.

#### Eastern Belt - Acreage up 1 percent.

In the Eastern belt (type 12) the acreage for 1947 is placed at 396,000 acres or 1 percent more than the 392,000 acres harvested in the preceding year. Growers in this Belt planted a larger percentage of their allotted acreage in 1946 than those in the other belts.

#### Middle and Old Belt - Up 2 percent.

The acreage intended to be planted in the Old and Middle belts (type 11) is indicated at 314,000 acres, 2 percent more than was harvested in 1946.

#### BURLEY: Crop acreage promises to be 7 percent greater than last year.

The acreage of Burley (type 31) grown in the mountain counties promises to be greater than last year by about 7 percent. During 1946 growers had difficulty in obtaining sufficient plants which resulted in their not being able to set out their allotted acreage. This year, however, they intend to plant closer to their allotment. If present intentions materialize around 10,500 acres will be set compared to 9,800 acres harvested in 1946.

(Continued on Page 6)

## — WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1947 \* —

**GENERAL:** February 1947 was cold and dry. In the eastern piedmont and coastal sections of the State of North Carolina it was one of the three or four coldest and driest Februaries on record. Rivers receded and were generally at a low level at the close of the month. The weather was quite different from December and January both of which had been warm.

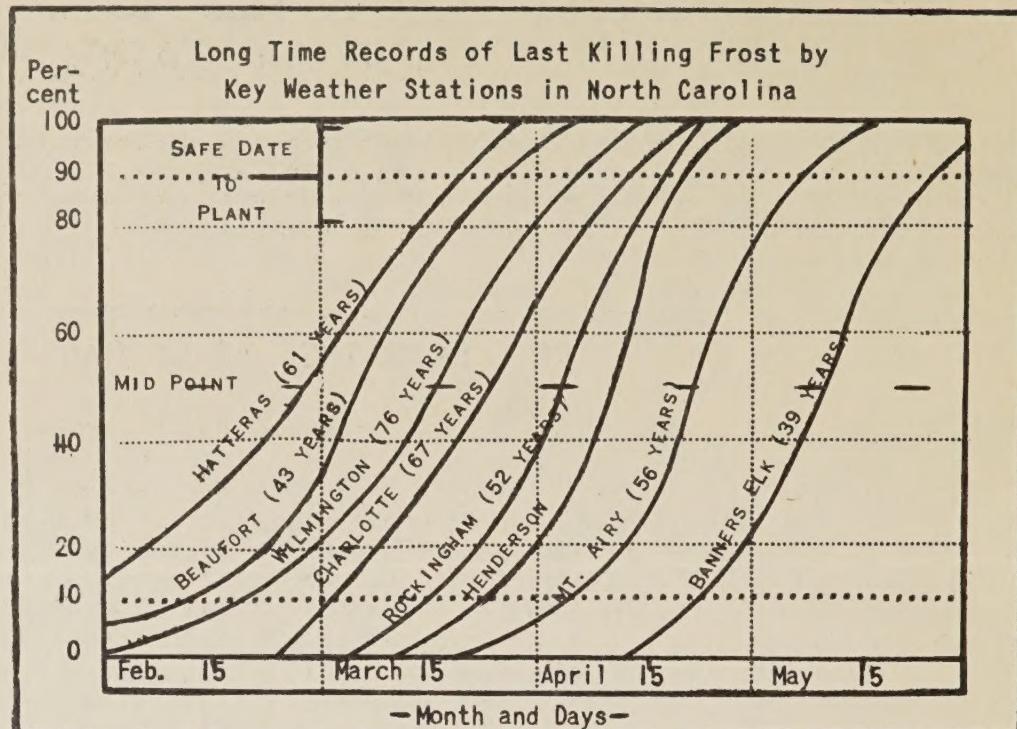
**EARLY MARCH FARM SITUATIONS:** While February is the coldest month of the year and little field work is active, March is quite different. Farmers are anxious to start breaking land, working on tobacco beds, readying for early vegetables, getting in late oats and lespedeza, getting working implements in shape for immediate start of spring work.

The winter months permitted of much plowing until early February, but since then little has been permitted.

Small grains have been considerably stunted or retarded by the cold February weather. Fruit blooms that were swelling a month ago were stopped and even the foliage that was showing on certain plants and trees are now dead and a dormant appearance prevails.

**TEMPERATURE:** Temperatures averaged 6 degrees below the normal for the month over most of the State. The coldest weather occurred on the 9th when the temperature dropped below zero over the northern mountain counties, 10 to 15 over much of the piedmont and interior of the costal plain with some stations down to 6; and near 20 degrees along the coast. Temperatures were persistently low the last ten days of the month, when much of the monthly deficit was accumulated. Low temperatures during the month effectively checked all vegetative growth which had been given a premature start by the warm weather late in January. Peach buds appear to have successfully weathered the low temperature on the 9th.

**LAST KILLING FROST IN SPRING:** The killing frosts in the spring ordinarily occur on calm, clear nights when



the maximum cooling takes place close to the ground. Because of this there is a tendency for frost to form more readily and the damage to be more severe in low places where there is a lack of air drainage. Such places become known as "frost pockets". Late spring frosts are less frequent and less damaging along hillsides where the cool air has a chance to drain off and be replaced by relatively warm air. For this reason, fruits and other crops subject to frost damage are often more successfully grown on the hillsides than in the bottom-lands.

### LONG TIME RECORDS OF LAST KILLING FROST IN NORTH CAROLINA:

The chart on this page is for selected weather stations in North Carolina and shows the occurrence of the last killing frosts in the spring in terms of cumulative percentages beginning with the day preceding the earliest date of the last killing frost and ending with the date of the latest killing frost in the spring for each station. For example: On March 20, 90 percent of all killing frosts had occurred at Hatteras, and the chance of having a frost on a later date is only 10 percent. On the same day, 80 percent of all killing frost at Beaufort had been recorded, 55 percent at Wilmington, 40 percent at Charlotte, and 15 percent at

Rockingham. The steepness of the graphs indicates the relative concentration of last killing frost dates. For example: At Hatteras the curved line is gently sloping from the 1st of February to the 1st of April, indicating a lack of concentration of killing frost dates over a two month period. On the other hand the line for Henderson rises sharply from March 30 to April 21, indicating a concentration of 75 percent of all last killing frost dates in a three week period.

Between the top and bottom dotted lines on the chart 80% of the killing frosts occurred at the weather station locations and for the number of years they show. For example: At Charlotte 80% of the killing frosts over the 67 year period were between March 5 and April 15, as compared with the midpoint of March 24th (center long dashed line). Beaufort on the coast is reasonably 9 weeks earlier than Banner Elk (in the mountains)- This study provides a good guide for farmers to determine the safe date of planting.

\* Developed in Regular Cooperation with  
the U. S. Weather Bureau -  
directed by  
C. E. Lamoureux, Meteorologist  
at State College

## — COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS —

Weather conditions to date have been very unfavorable for early spring commercial truck crops. February freezes and dry weather have seriously damaged the lettuce crop in New Hanover and Pender counties, and current prospects are for yields less than 50 percent as large as the all-time record high yields harvested in 1946. The red spider mite has inflicted considerable damage to strawberry plants in the Duplin-Pender county section, and current indications are for a short crop of berries. The acreage of strawberries remained unchanged from 1946 to 1947 at 2,200 acres. Adverse weather conditions will probably result in harvest of both the lettuce and strawberry crops running from two to three weeks later than in 1946.

Preliminary reports based upon farmers' planting intentions indicate that 11,500 acres of commercial watermelons will be planted in North Carolina this year. This is only 500 acres more than the acreage harvested in 1946, but is about 16 percent larger than the 10-year average acreage.

## — LIVESTOCK —

**MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION:** The number of Milk Cows on North Carolina farms during 1946 continued the decline from the peak reached in 1944. Compared with 1945, there were about 3 percent fewer Milk Cows on farms during 1946. This is a decline of 6 percent from the all time high of 1944. Annual milk production per cow reached a record average of 4,130 pounds per cow during 1946. This is an increase of an average of 100 pounds per cow over 1945. The increase in average production per cow about offset the 3 percent drop in Milk Cow numbers and as a result, total milk production during 1946 was less than 1 percent under total production for 1945.

### MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS, 1939-46 1/

| Year | Milk Cows on Farms 2/ | Milk Production Per Cow 3/ | Total Milk Production on Farms 3/ |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|      | (000)                 | Pounds                     | Million Lbs.                      |
| 1946 | 361                   | 4,130                      | 1,491                             |
| 1945 | 371                   | 4,030                      | 1,495                             |
| 1944 | 384                   | 3,930                      | 1,509                             |
| 1943 | 370                   | 3,960                      | 1,465                             |
| 1942 | 354                   | 3,960                      | 1,402                             |
| 1941 | 346                   | 3,990                      | 1,381                             |
| 1940 | 333                   | 3,930                      | 1,309                             |
| 1939 | 330                   | 3,970                      | 1,310                             |

1/ 1946 preliminary, 1939-45 revised.

2/ Average number on farms during year, heifers that have not yet freshened excluded.

3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms.

**MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION:** During February 1947, milk production on North Carolina farms totaled 104 million pounds, 11 million pounds above the 1936-45 February average, and 4 million pounds more than a year earlier. Milk Cow numbers were down about 1 percent from February 1946, but Milk production per cow was almost 5 percent above February last year and at the highest level for this month on record. Total milk production during the month was down seasonably about 4 percent from January to February, because of the fewer number of days in February.

## ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS

| Month and Year           | NORTH CAROLINA     |                            |                  | U. S.            |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                          | Milk Cows on Farms | Monthly Milk Prod. Per Cow | Total Milk Prod. | Total Milk Prod. |
|                          | (000)              | Lbs.                       | Million Lbs.     | Million Lbs.     |
| February 1947            | 358                | 290                        | 104              | 8,491            |
| January 1947             | 359                | 300                        | 108              | 8,911            |
| February 1946            | 362                | 277                        | 100              | 8,215            |
| February Average 1936-45 | -                  | -                          | 93               | 7,782            |

## — POULTRY —

**EGG PRODUCTION:** The average number of layers on North Carolina farms during February was estimated at 8,330,000 birds, compared with 8,591,000 during February 1946. The rate of lay per 100 layers was about 2 percent above the rate during February last year. The estimated rate during February was 991 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 974 a year ago. Total egg production during February amounted to 83 million eggs, compared with 84 million produced during February 1946. For the first two months of this year there were 151 million eggs produced on North Carolina farms, an increase of about 9 million over production during the same period in 1946.

**COMMERCIAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION:** North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced approximately 4,856,000 baby chicks during February. This production is 6 percent above the number hatched in February 1946 and is 32 percent above the five year (1941-45) average.

Prices on straight run chicks of all breeds declined from 20 cents to \$1.00 per hundred from January.

Indications for March point to a lighter than usual hatch.

## - PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS -

### NORTH CAROLINA PRICES:

**GRAINS:** Wheat, Barley up; Corn, Oats, Rye-no change.

Prices received by North Carolina farmers for grains at mid-month held to the January 15 average, with the exception of wheat and barley which showed increases of one and ten cents on the bushel. Corn, oats, and rye averaged \$1.57, \$1.10 and \$2.35 respectively.

**MEAT ANIMALS:** Hogs, Veal Calves up, Beef Cattle, Sheep, Lambs - same.

North Carolina farmers received higher prices for hogs and veal calves in mid-February. Hog prices were up 20 cents per cwt., and averaged \$20.70. Veal calves averaged \$17.20 per cwt., reflecting a ten cent gain over their mid-January level. Beef cattle, sheep, and lambs at \$14.50, \$8.50, and \$17.80 per cwt., respectively were unchanged from the previous month. Chickens were selling for 26 cents per pound or 1.5 cents below the January 15 price. Eggs, at 44.8 cents per dozen, were down from last month,

but was the highest February 15 price in 3 years. The February mid-month price per pound for butter is down 1 cent from January 15.

**UNITED STATES PRICES:** Hogs, Food Grains up; Dairy Products down; all commodities - no change.

Farmers were receiving an average of \$23.80 per cwt., for hogs on February 15. Although the \$2.00 rise in the average price of hogs during the month pushed meat animal prices higher than the October record, the general level of prices received by farmers for all commodities remained about the same as a month ago. Prices of dairy products dropped eight percent, and oil bearing crops, tobacco, and poultry and eggs were also down somewhat. Price of food grains rose considerably. Prices of veal calves were also higher, but beef cattle, sheep, and lambs showed little change.

Prices received by farmers for Cotton lint averaged 30.56 cents per pound or .8 cent higher on February 15 than a month ago.

**PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS FEBRUARY 15 WITH COMPARISONS**

| Commodity & Unit                       | Feb. 15<br>1947 | Jan. 15<br>1947 | Feb. 15<br>1946 | Feb. 15<br>1945 | Feb. 15<br>1944 | 5-Yr. Avg.<br>Aug. 1909-<br>July 1914 | U.S. Average<br>Feb. 15, 1947 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | (\$)            | (\$)            | (\$)            | (\$)            | (\$)            | (\$)                                  | (\$)                          |
| Corn, Per Bu.-----                     | 1.57            | 1.57            | 1.39            | 1.50            | 1.50            | 0.90                                  | 1.23                          |
| Wheat, Per Bu.-----                    | 2.21            | 2.20            | 1.86            | 1.65            | 1.72            | 1.12                                  | 1.99                          |
| Oats, Per Bu.-----                     | 1.10            | 1.10            | 0.98            | 1.03            | 1.10            | 0.63                                  | 0.797                         |
| Barley, Per Bu.-----                   | 1.70            | 1.60            | 1.46            | 1.45            | 1.45            | -                                     | 1.33                          |
| Rye, Per Bu.-----                      | 2.35            | 2.35            | 1.89            | 1.74            | 1.74            | 0.99                                  | 2.33                          |
| Cotton, Per Lb.-----                   | 0.313           | 0.305           | 0.234           | 0.203           | 0.203           | 0.125                                 | 0.3056                        |
| Cottonseed, Per Ton-----               | 87.00           | 90.00           | 49.00           | 49.00           | 51.00           | 25.80                                 | 88.20                         |
| Hogs, Per 100 Lbs.-----                | 20.70           | 20.50           | 14.20           | 13.60           | 12.50           | 7.60                                  | 23.80                         |
| Beef Cattle, Per 100 Lbs.-----         | 14.50           | 14.50           | 11.00           | 10.00           | 10.00           | 4.18                                  | 17.30                         |
| Veal Calves, Per 100 Lbs.-----         | 17.20           | 17.10           | 13.40           | 12.50           | 12.10           | 5.14                                  | 19.20                         |
| Sheep, Per 100 Lbs.-----               | 8.50            | 8.50            | 7.50            | 6.70            | 6.50            | 4.24                                  | 7.74                          |
| Lambs, Per 100 Lbs.-----               | 17.80           | 17.80           | 12.80           | 12.00           | 12.30           | 5.10                                  | 19.40                         |
| Chickens, Per Lb.-----                 | 0.260           | 0.276           | 0.257           | 0.260           | 0.251           | 0.117                                 | 0.253                         |
| Eggs, Per Doz.-----                    | 0.448           | 0.493           | 0.380           | 0.370           | 0.338           | 0.193                                 | 0.386                         |
| Milk: Wholesale, Per 100 Lbs.-----*    | 5.40            | 5.40            | 4.05            | 4.10            | 3.95            | 2.48                                  | 4.53                          |
| Retail, Per Quart-----                 | 0.180           | 0.185           | 0.154           | 0.150           | 0.148           | 0.83                                  | 0.171                         |
| Butter, Per Lb.-----                   | 0.56            | 0.57            | 0.43            | 0.40            | 0.38            | 0.24                                  | 0.634                         |
| Butterfat, Per Lb.-----                | 0.60            | 0.65            | 0.46            | 0.44            | 0.42            | 0.27                                  | 0.678                         |
| Peanuts, Per Lb.-----                  | 0.095           | 0.095           | 0.097           | 0.088           | 0.079           | 0.041                                 | 0.905                         |
| Soybeans, Per Bu.-----                 | 2.70            | 2.70            | 2.15            | 2.10            | 1.95            | -                                     | 3.00                          |
| Cowpeas, Per Bu.-----                  | 4.25            | 4.40            | 3.90            | 3.50            | 3.25            | -                                     | 4.09                          |
| Hay, All Loose, Per Ton-----           | 25.20           | 25.00           | 27.50           | 29.50           | 25.20           | 16.30                                 | 17.50                         |
| Hay, All Baled, Per Ton-----           | 32.00           | 32.00           | 34.50           | 33.30           | 29.20           | -                                     | -                             |
| Wool, Per Lb.-----                     | 0.47            | 0.50            | 0.49            | 0.46            | 0.46            | 0.22                                  | 0.403                         |
| Irish Potatoes, Per Bu.-----           | 1.60            | 1.60            | 1.70            | 1.90            | 1.65            | 0.88                                  | 1.31                          |
| Sweet Potatoes, Per Bu.-----           | 2.30            | 2.25            | 2.30            | 1.95            | 2.25            | 0.75                                  | 2.28                          |
| Apples (Comm'l), Per Bu.-----          | 3.10            | 2.90            | 4.20            | 2.50            | 3.00            | 0.93                                  | -                             |
| Lespedeza Seed, All, Per 100 Lbs.----- | 9.90            | 9.70            | 10.40           | 10.60           | 13.30           | -                                     | 8.06                          |

\* Preliminary

## — PRICES PAID BY FARMERS —

The prices paid by North Carolina farmers for feeds on February 15, show slight decline from the previous month, however all feed prices are higher than a year ago. With the exception of foods and feeds, prices of most everything bought by farmers were equal or higher than a month earlier.

**UNITED STATES:** As a result of sharply higher prices of lumber and field seeds, the index of prices paid by farmers for production goods resumed its upswing. Although feed prices continued to decline from January 15 to February 15, this down-swing was not enough to offset the increase in price of building materials.

Prices paid by farmers for things they buy are not likely to go down much before the end of June. For the year as a whole, they will probably average 5 to 7 percent above 1946.

**SEED MARKET UP:** The spring seed market opened considerably higher than a year ago for most field seeds. The index of prices paid by farmers for seed was 355 in mid-February (1912 = 100).

**BUILDING MATERIAL:** Building material price advances were not only sharp but rather general during the month ending February 15. Lumber price increases were responsible for about four-fifths of the up turn although both production and stocks at mills and concentration yards are running higher than a year ago.

**CLOTHING:** Prices paid by farmers for clothing continued to rise rather sharply for January 15 to February 15. Prices of cotton goods led the advance this month. Woollens also rose moderately, but gains in rayon apparel were slight, and footwear prices practically unchanged.

## — NORTH CAROLINA FARM LABOR —

The Farm Labor situation was better on March 1 than for a year ago. The supply of farm labor is more favorable than for the past several years, although, farm wages are still high. Tenants and croppers are becoming more plentiful, however, some land may continue idle due to the difficulty in finding good tenants.

## — FARM OUTLOOK AND FACTS — for 1947

**DEMAND:** The demand for farm products is expected to hold firm through June, but will probably weaken somewhat later in the year.

U. S. exports of agricultural products last year were over four times the prewar average in dollar value, and more than double the wartime average.

Total exports of farm products this year are expected to stay well above both the wartime and prewar averages.

**WHEAT:** Wheat prices recently reached new 27-year highs and are expected to stay high for the rest of the marketing year.

The 1946 world wheat crop was the largest since 1939, and about 3 percent above the 1935-39 average, compared with 7 percent increase in world population since the beginning of the war.

**CORN AND OTHER FEEDS:** Market receipts of corn were the largest on record from last October to January, and will continue large until next October.

Less livestock feed will be used from now until September than during the same period a year ago.

The combined carry-over of corn, oats and barley into 1947-48 is expected to be 50 to 75 percent greater than last year, with most, if not all, of the increase in corn.

**COTTON:** A 3-million bale carry-over of cotton is now in prospect for next August 1, the smallest since 1929.

**POTATOES:** Supplies of new potatoes are much smaller this year than last, but record supplies of old potatoes are holding prices down.

Record large supplies of certified seed potatoes are available this year.

**LIVESTOCK:** Farmers had six percent fewer grain-consuming animal units on January 1 this year than last.

### AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS

#### 1946 and 1947 WITH COMPARISONS

| Commodity<br>and<br>Unit                         | N. C. 1946 |            |            |            | N.C. 1947  |            | UNITED STATES      |                    |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | Nov.<br>15 | Dec.<br>15 | Jan.<br>15 | Feb.<br>15 | Jan.<br>15 | Feb.<br>15 | Feb.<br>15<br>1946 | Feb.<br>15<br>1947 |
| Bran, Per Cwt.                                   | (\$)       | (\$)       | (\$)       | (\$)       | (\$)       | (\$)       | (\$)               | (\$)               |
| Middlings, Per Cwt.                              | 3.80       | 3.55       | 2.90       | 2.95       | 3.25       | 3.10       | 2.44               | 2.54               |
| Corn Meal, Per Cwt.                              | 4.00       | 3.80       | 2.95       | 3.00       | 3.40       | 3.25       | 2.46               | 2.71               |
| Cottonseed Meal,<br>Per Cwt.                     | 5.80       | 5.50       | 4.45       | 4.50       | 5.30       | 5.10       | 3.04               | 3.32               |
| Mixed Dairy Feed:<br>16 Pct-Protein,<br>Per Cwt. | 4.85       | 4.85       | 2.85       | 2.90       | 4.65       | 4.25       | 3.14               | 4.33               |
| 18 Pct-Protein,<br>Per Cwt.                      | 4.05       | 3.95       | 3.15       | 3.20       | 3.80       | 3.70       | 3.04               | 3.53               |
| 20 Pct-Protein,<br>Per Cwt.                      | 4.25       | 4.20       | 3.35       | 3.40       | 4.05       | 3.95       | 3.28               | 3.60               |
| Laying Mash, Per Cwt.                            | 4.35       | 4.30       | 3.40       | 3.45       | 4.20       | 4.10       | 3.34               | 3.71               |
| Scratch Feed, Per Cwt.                           | 5.10       | 5.00       | 4.10       | 4.15       | 4.85       | 4.75       | 3.71               | 4.24               |
| Tankage, Per Cwt.                                | 4.75       | 4.55       | 3.80       | 3.85       | 4.40       | 4.35       | 3.47               | 3.81               |
|  | 6.00       | 6.20       | 4.50       | 4.45       | 6.20       | 6.20       | 4.26               | 5.81               |

(Cont'd from first page)

- LEGUMES -

PEANUTS: Planted acreage up 2 percent.

The acreage of Peanuts to be grown alone for all purposes is reported at 316,000 acres, 2 percent less than the 322,000 acres harvested in 1946. The past two crop seasons have been very disappointing to North Carolina Peanut growers, consequently, they are somewhat pessimistic about this year's crop and hesitate to plant as heavily as they might with a more encouraging outlook.

SOYBEANS: Acreage same as last year.

The acreage of Soybeans grown alone for all purposes (beans,

hay, hogging and turning) is expected to be the same as the 342,000 acres grown in 1946. Since Soybeans are one of the last of the Spring sown crops to be seeded, it is quite possible that, if planting intentions for other Spring sown crops fails to materialize, the acreage may be diverted to Soybeans, therefore the March 1 planting intentions for this crop are subject to considerable change.

COWPEAS: Downward trend in acreage continues.

The acreage of Cowpeas grown alone for all purposes in 1947 is expected to continue the downward trend for the past few years. Current estimates place the acreage for 1947 at 29,000

acres or 92 percent of the 32,000 acres grown alone for all purposes in 1946.

- FOOD CROPS -

IRISH POTATOES: Acreage down 10 percent.

March 1 indications point to a 10 percent decline in the acreage of all Irish Potatoes to be planted for harvest in 1947. The establishment of individual farm acreage goals for commercial growers accounted for the majority of the decrease in the Irish Potato acreage. However, farmers who grow potatoes primarily for home consumption also indicate some reduction in their acreage for 1947. Pre-planting indications point to little change in the late potato crop produced in the mountainous districts of the State. Current prospects are for 72,000 acres of potatoes to be planted in 1947 compared with 80,000 acres in 1946 and 85,000 acres planted during the ten year (1936-45) average period.

SWEET POTATOES: Acreage up 3 percent.

Prospective planting of Sweet Potatoes were estimated at 66,000 acres on March 1, or an increase of 3 percent over the 64,000 acres harvested last year and compares with the ten year average of 78,000 acres.

WHEAT: The fall of 1946 almost ideal.

The Fall of 1946 was almost ideal for the planting of winter grain crops and an exceptionally large acreage of Wheat was put to the ground. Detailed information as to the acreage and prospective yield of winter wheat will become available about April 10.

- FEED CROPS -

GRAIN AND HAY CROPS: Total acreage down slightly.

The acreage of Oats is up 6 percent and the largest in 53 years. Corn, Barley and Hay crops show decreases of 1, 8, and 1 percent respectively from last year. The decrease in total feed crops has been stimulated by an overall reduction in numbers of livestock on farms.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1947  
NORTH CAROLINA

| CROPS                  | Average 1936-1945 |                        | Unit of Yield | Acreage Planted |                |                |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                        | Acreage Planted   | Yield per planted acre |               | 1946            | Indicated 1947 | 1947 % of 1946 |
|                        | (000)             |                        |               | (000)           | (000)          | %              |
| Corn, All              | 2,376             | 20.8                   | Bu.           | 2,215           | 2,193          | 99             |
| Oats                   | 348               | 19.2                   | Bu.           | 493             | 523            | 106            |
| Barley                 | 33                | 18.6                   | Bu.           | 37              | 34             | 92             |
| All Hay*               | 1,178             | .96                    | Tons          | 1,233           | 1,221          | 99             |
| Irish Potatoes         | 85                | 100                    | Bu.           | 80              | 72             | 90             |
| Sweet Potatoes         | 78                | 102                    | Bu.           | 64              | 66             | 103            |
| Tobacco;*              |                   |                        |               |                 |                |                |
| Type 11                | 244.5             | 891                    | Lbs.          | 308             | 314            | 102            |
| Type 12                | 307.8             | 1,000                  | Lbs.          | 392             | 396            | 101            |
| Type 13                | 70                | 1,013                  | Lbs.          | 97              | 99             | 102            |
| All flue-cured*        | 622.3             | 959                    | Lbs.          | 797             | 809            | 102            |
| Type 31 (Burley)       | 8.4               | 1,124                  | Lbs.          | 9.8             | 10.5           | 107            |
| All Tobacco*           | 630.7             | 961                    | Lbs.          | 806.8           | 819.5          | 102            |
| Soybeans**             | 354               | -                      |               | 342             | 342            | 100            |
| Cowpeas**              | 162               | -                      |               | 62              | 56             | 90             |
| Peanuts **             | 278               | -                      |               | 322             | 316            | 98             |
| Sorghums, all purposes | 28                | -                      |               | 30              | 30             | 100            |

UNITED STATES

|                       |         |      |      |         |         |       |
|-----------------------|---------|------|------|---------|---------|-------|
| Corn, all             | 92,914  | 28.6 | Bu.  | 90,027  | 87,599  | 97.3  |
| Oats, all             | 41,669  | 27.8 | Bu.  | 47,048  | 46,620  | 99.1  |
| Barley                | 14,763  | 19.6 | Bu.  | 11,594  | 11,714  | 101   |
| All Hay*              | 72,373  | 1.3  | Tons | 74,352  | 74,337  | 100   |
| Irish Potatoes        | 2,945.2 | 128  | Bu.  | 2,624.7 | 2,309.7 | 88    |
| Sweet Potatoes        | 742.4   | 86.6 | Bu.  | 685.4   | 663.8   | 96.8  |
| Tobacco, all*         | 1,591.9 | 971  | Lbs. | 1,938   | 1,908   | 98.5  |
| Tobacco, flue-cured*  | 922.3   | 950  | Lbs. | 1,184.8 | 1,203.8 | 102   |
| Soybeans**            | 10,391  | -    |      | 11,494  | 12,213  | 106.3 |
| Cowpeas **            | 2,925   | -    |      | 1,216   | 1,116   | 91.8  |
| Peanuts **            | 3,075   | -    |      | 3,949   | 3,847   | 97.4  |
| Sorghum, all purposes | 16,797  | -    |      | 14,753  | 13,109  | 88.9  |

\* Acreage Harvested

\*\* Grown alone for all purposes - partly duplicated in hay acreage.